THE U.F.A.

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THE UNITED FARMERS of ALBERTA

Vol. I. CALGARY, ALBERTA, AUGUST 1, 1922 No. 11

Legislation by Provincial Assemblies Makes Wheat Board Possible

Acts to Establish Compulsory Board May Be Brought Into Effect Concurrently by Alberta and Saskatchewan Governments.

Since the last issue of "The U.F.A." went to press the Governments of Saskatchewan and Alberta have called special sessions of the Legislatures of these Provinces to consider concurrent legislation necessary to establish a compulsory Wheat Board in accordance with the Canadian Wheat Board Act passed by the Dominion Parliament.

The Saskatchewan Legislature, which was convened on July 20th, gave third reading to the special legislation on July 27th. The Alberta Legislature met on July 25th, a bill to confer the necessary powers on the proposed Wheat Board was immediately introduced, and is under discussion in the Assembly as this issue goes to press. The bill will undoubtedly have been passed by the Assembly by the time "The U.F.A." is in the hands of members.

The Alberta bill will be in similar form to the Saskatchewan Act, as this was finally passed. The provisions of the two bills were agreed upon by Premier Greenfield and Premier Dunning at consultations held before the special sessions were called.

Confers Discretion on Governments.

The legislation confers on the Provincial Cabinets absolute discretion to guarantee or decline to guarantee advances made by the Wheat Board through chartered banks for the purpose of purchasing grain. By retaining this measure of financial control over the Board (whose selection is in the hands of the Dominion Government), the Provincial Cabinets will be in a position to wait and see what the personnel of the Board may be, and also what rules will be laid down by the Ottawa Cabinet, before proceeding to commit the credit of the Provinces by guaranteeing advances for the purchase of grain.

Hon. J. E. Brownlee, Attorney General, speaking in the Legislature on July 26th, intimated that the personnel of the Board would be a matter of the utmost importance. If the personnel were unsatisfactory the Provinces might decline to bring the Board into operation. "If the personnel is satisfactory," said the Attorney-General, "we are prepared to carry out the legislation, but I do not think we ought even to be bound by that. Other things might arise that would make a different course necessary and I think the Government should be given comparatively full discretion."

Peak of Credit Required, $15,000,000.

The peak of credit which the Board may have to carry will be about $15,000,000, for three months during the fall, in the opinion of James Stewart and F. W. Riddell, as expressed in the telegrams read by Premier Greenfield in the Legislature. Mr. Stewart's message, dated July 26th, read as follows:

"At the worst, assuming that the board management is not satisfied with the prices prevailing during the fall months, and that they withhold from the overseas market up to 50 per cent. of the quantity marketed by the farmers, the first three months' peak load would be about fifteen million dollars.

"It is reasonable to assume, however, that the management would sell gradually a fair quantity during the fall shipping months to overseas buyers, in which case the extreme extent to which the board would have to lean on the banks might not exceed eight million dollars.

"The farmer board did not have to rely directly on the banks for relatively large amounts, as the initial price being guaranteed, the banks advanced the usual credit to the elevator operators. The latter, although our agents in purchasing wheat, desired the minimal responsibility of financing but with themselves.

"If the same procedure is adopted should your proposed board be established this year, and that you were conservative in your advance to farmers, three to five million direct line of credit would suffice.

(Signed) "JAMES STEWART."

Mr. Riddell's confirmatory wire read:

"Replying to your wire, I have consulted with Mr. Stewart and am familiar with his reply to your similar wire, with which I agree.
(Signed) "F. W. RIDDELL."

The speech from the Throne at the opening of the special session, after referring to the Wheat Board legislation as the principal business of the session, made mention of "such other matters as may be submitted to you," leaving the field open for the transaction of any urgent business.

Result of One Year's Representation.

The mover and seconder of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne were A. R. Claypool, member for Didsbury, and G. N. Johnston, member for Coronation. During the course of his speech in support of Wheat Board legislation Mr. Claypool declared, "Alberta has more to show from the farmer members for one year's representation at Ottawa than has been shown in any previous five years," and added that the election of three farmer members in the recent Provincial by-elections was a stamp of approval upon the farmer administration of Alberta. Mr. Johnston stated that as a result of price fluctuations instability was produced in all business. The conditions were now such that the farmer must market his grain early to get the early price. One farmer and a four horse team would ordinarily spend a month in hauling his grain to market. If that time were spent in cultivating his land he would be able to manage his farm with greater efficiency. Wheat Board legislation would afford him the opportunity to do his fall work and haul his grain in the winter. If there were to be stability, Mr. Johnston said, there must be some system of regulating prices. "The drop in prices in 1920 was as serious as a great hail storm or drouth," he declared.

Voluntary Board Unsatisfactory.

Mr. Brownlee stated that there "was absolutely no reason for a wheat board in 1919 which does not exist today." He did not believe that a voluntary wheat board could be satisfactory under present conditions, because it would have no marketing, no storage, no receiving facilities. "It would be faced by the competition of all the elevators. Under this act the board can compel the elevators to give storage, so that it will have practically the whole of the elevator system of the Provinces at its disposal."

(Continued on page 11)

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Vol. I. CALGARY, ALBERTA, AUGUST 1st, 1922 No. 11

EDITORIAL

On July 31st, in great demonstrations held in Europe and in other parts of the world, many millions of people celebrated the eighth anniversary of the outbreak of the great war by passing resolutions in favor of international peace. The demonstrations were participated in by the clergy, social workers, ex-service men, and by many public men of international reputation. In Great Britain cities, towns and villages took part. In Berlin fifty thousand persons assembled in the palace grounds of the ex-Emperor to participate in the international movement, and in 200 other centres in Germany demonstrations took place.

Two days previously Premier Lloyd George, in a speech which, prior to 1914, would have been described as "alarmist," called attention to the present peril of war, and declared that the next war, if it came, would be a war upon civilization itself, that efficient engines of destruction were being fashioned, primarily to attack the cities, and to destroy indiscriminately the civilian populations of warring states. No European statesman is more closely in touch with the drift of world politics than the British Premier. He placed an apparently somewhat wavering faith in the power of the League of Nations, a body in which, in its present form, few authorities upon international affairs apart from the statesmen who drafted the League Covenant, now express confidence. "It is difficult," he said, "for a nation to remain defenceless while others are preparing for war."

Realizing that goodwill between peoples will not suffice to prevent the outbreak of future conflicts, the U.F.A. Annual Convention in January last laid emphasis upon the necessity for an examination into the causes of modern wars. A resolution on this subject was carried by unanimous vote. It had become apparent prior to the Convention, that the Washington Conference of 1921 had failed to provide any more effective guarantee for future peace than the scrapping of battleships which were becoming obsolete, and the signing of a treaty designed to give to the dominating economic groups of the leading world powers a partnership in the financial control of the Far East. Since then two other important conferences have been held—at Genoa and at The Hague—and both have proved abortive.

"No sentiments of friendship, no cultivation of goodwill between peoples can suffice to avert a calamity if economic rivalries become acute." These words briefly summarize the views expressed in a series of articles in the New York "Nation," a weekly review of high standing. Sir Eric Geddes, during his term as British ambassador to Washington, and ex-President Wilson himself, in public utterances, have emphasized the predominance of the economic factor as a cause of modern wars, while "The New Age," a British weekly review of politics, literature and art, has for some time past adopted a critical attitude towards the conventional liberals who hope to be able to maintain peace by appeals to sentiment alone. Peace will be established, this paper maintains, not by ignoring the facts, but by facing them. "Do not think war, and war will not come," it regards as a discredited slogan.

"World affairs would not have reached so perilous a pass were there not sincere idealists so pathetically blind to the real causes of war," says "The New Age." "This lack of economic realism was the whole secret of the tragedy of President Wilson. As the proclamation of an ideal his points were splendid, and naturally aroused the utmost enthusiasm among the mass of the democratic parties throughout the world. For most of these utterly failed to realize (though themselves continually asserting) the irresistible dominance of economic factors. And so, when the new Don Quixote met his inevitable overthrow, he was assailed with a great howl of 'betrayal.' In fact, his only fault was the initial mistake of setting out to fight economic forces with mere political idealism.

"The Wilsons and the Robert Cecils may cry out, 'We have proclaimed a new era; a different code is now in force; you are breaking the rules.' But there is no referee to whom to appeal; the dark forces of cosmopolitan finance are their own referees. In the face of relentless economic facts, the statesman armed only with 'points,' though they were a hundred instead of fourteen, stands ridiculously helpless. A timid bleat has recently been heard in favor of the freedom of the seas. There will be less freedom of the seas in the next war than in the last. There will be no rules indeed, and no restraints of humanity or honor."

Another writer, in "An Open Letter to the Demonstrators for Peace," points out that rivalries for export markets for manufactured goods are more relentless to-day than they were in 1914. "The power to glut the world's markets," he says, "is greater, while the markets are smaller. The end of this rule can only be either another war between the chief competitors for what markets are going, or domestic collapse through failure to enter them. And it happens that the war you desire to avoid assures an immediate, if temporary, solution. Your only effective weapon against it is something which will do at least as much. The number of those who desired the last World War was, compared with the rest who did not, infinitesimal. Nevertheless it came. Does your affirmation bring the establishment of permanent peace nearer by a hair's breadth?"

This writer is in agreement with many economists in the opinion that the causes of modern war and the causes of the depression which periodically occurs in agriculture and in industry, are fundamentally one and the same, that the removal of the cause of one will effectively remove the prime cause of the other.

The setting up of a public inquiry into the relation between the control of credit and the industrial problem was strongly urged during the recent session of Parliament by the Alberta members. And it may be that such an inquiry, once instituted, will serve not only to shed light upon the causes of depression in the commercial world, but also to reveal the means by which Canada, first setting her own house in order, might take a leading part in the movement to make war impossible by abolishing its principal cause.

But without the sustaining influence of an educated public opinion, and the maintenance of an organized democratic power such as, in Alberta, the farmers have built up, it is unreasonable to hope that any fundamental economic reforms can be made effective, or that the will to peace can be availing.

"History is a race between education and catastrophe."
—H. G. Wells.

How the U.F.A. Resolutions Were Dealt With at Ottawa

A Report by the Alberta Members on the Action Taken Upon Resolutions of the Annual Convention.

For the first time in the history of the U.F.A. a comprehensive report, describing in detail the action taken upon each of the resolutions of the Annual Convention submitted to the Dominion Government, has been received by the organization. The report was submitted for the Alberta Group in the House of Commons at the close of the recent session at Ottawa, by H. E. Spencer, M.P., secretary of the group, and is now made available through "The U.F.A." to the membership of the organization throughout the Province. It forms a valuable index to subjects of especial interest to members which have been dealt with during the session, and to many of the activities of the Alberta representatives in Parliament.

In the past, although a few of the Ministers in successive Dominion Governments have written fully upon matters which concerned their departments, the U.F.A. has seldom been favored with more than a general statement to the effect that resolutions had been received and would be given consideration. In furnishing information upon every resolution which was passed by the Convention and forwarded to Ottawa for the consideration of the Government, of Parliament, or of the U.F.A. members in the House of Commons, the U.F.A. group have made a welcome new departure.

The sub-titles at the beginning of each of the thirty-three paragraphs in the report are self-explanatory. The resolutions of the Annual Convention to which these paragraphs refer may be found in the Annual Report of the U.F.A.

The report of the Alberta members, which will repay careful study, is given below:

1. **Income Tax**—Asking for a greater allowance to be made for each child.

Ans. This resolution was received with favor by the Finance Minister and on bringing down his changes in the Income Tax law he recommended that the exemption should be raised from $200 to $300.

1a. Asking that the farmer's income tax might be assessed on a period of years for reason of his fluctuating income.

Ans. The Minister realized the position of the farmer, but would not give the Committee much promise of any change being made.

2. **Federal Loan Department**—With reference to this resolution further information was requested from the drawer of same, but information not yet received. The resolution, however, was put on Hansard by one of the Alberta members in his address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. At a later date a Committee on Credit was requested of the Government. Unfortunately, the Minister of Finance was absent at the time and the Prime Minister made the request that the debate be adjourned until the Finance Minister had an opportunity of expressing his opinion with respect to same. As private members' day soon after that was assembled, we have not had an opportunity of making further progress. Several of the Alberta members, however, placed numerous questions on the order paper with respect to the present financial system, and a large amount of valuable information has been obtained.

3. **Marketing of Butter**—(a) Requesting that the name of producer be written, printed or stamped on package. (b) That retailers be obliged to keep butter in a sanitary place.

Ans. With respect to the first part, the Minister of Agriculture stated to the Committee the difficulty of marking butter paper without the ink penetrating to the butter and advised that this request be dropped.

The second part really belongs to the Health Department of the Provincial Government, and that authority was therefore written to in regard to same. The reply received was to the effect that the matter was receiving their attention at the present time.

4. **Establishment of Seed Test Institution**—

A report on this matter was published on the Provincial Secretary's page in the issue of "The U.F.A." of May 15th.

5. **Wheat Board**—With respect to this, information is generally known. I might say, however, that the Government from the beginning did not like to take responsibility, and passed it on to the Agricultural Committee, where interested witnesses from all over the Dominion were heard for both sides of the question. This action showed clearly that the millers, some elevator companies and the Winnipeg Grain Exchange were antagonistic to the Board being appointed. The meetings dragged on for upwards of four months before a resolution was submitted to Parliament recommending that one be established somewhat along the lines of the 1919 Wheat Board, but with its wings clipped considerably. The Government, officially, took no part in the discussion, but three of their prominent supporters, namely, McDonald of Picton, McMaster of Brome, and Maclean of Halifax fought it bitterly, the Conservatives doing likewise and strongly advocating the much advertised voluntary wheat pool advanced by Mr. Meighen in 1921. As is now known, the Bill was passed.

6. **The Inspection of Cattle**—The Minister of Agriculture informed the Committee—(a) That it was not compulsory for stock raisers to get certificates before sending cattle to market, either inside the Province or outside the Dominion, but that the owners might find that the stock, accompanied by such certificates, would sell to better advantage. (b) That the veterinary has a right to give a certificate without seeing stock, provided he knows the district from which the stock comes.

7. **Stock Yards**—Asking that stock yards be kept in properly drained and sanitary condition and water supplied.

The Minister of Agriculture requested further information as to points affected. No replies at present received to these requests.

8. **Quality of Goods**—Asking that manufacturers mark their goods as to quality.

Ans. Minister very evasive in reply. No definite statement given although written to three times by the secretary of the Alberta Group.

9. **Gasoline**—Asking that gasoline be sold on test.

Ans. Minister replied that test not practical, as weight per gallon varies with temperature. Reply was considered rather evasive and illogical.

10. **Manufacture and Warehousing of Liquor**—This was taken up with the Department of Justice, and an Act passed the Commons enabling Provinces to prevent export of liquor. The Act was killed in the Senate.

11. **Permit to Cut Dry Wood**—The Minister considered it to be inadvisable to reduce cost of permit to cut dry wood, as it would be a temptation for unscrupulous persons to burn forests for sake of cheap lumber.

12. **Irrigation**—Asking that irrigation laws be changed so that the Government might stand part of the cost of construction. This matter was arranged a few years ago.

13. **Free Grant of Pre-emption in Drought Stricken Areas**—Minister generally sympathetic, but would not make any statement of policy until the question of Natural Resources was settled. See answer No. 23.

14. **Grain Grader for Calgary**—Asking that an additional grader be appointed. Question was referred back to Local for specific cases, to prove the necessity of the above request. Reply not yet received.

15. **Overages**—The law at present endeavors to collect surplus overages, but authority questioned as ultra vires. Doubtful if Provinces could enact such legislation.

16. **Collection of School Taxes**—Asking that collections be made in same way as collections for seed grain and relief. Minister pointed out that Federal Government granted seed grain and relief; to them also belonged unpatented land. School taxes are a Provincial matter.

17. **Internal Revenue Tax**—This was advocated by many Progressives in debate on the budget. Little hope of the present Government accepting the suggestion.

18. **Dominion Elections Act**—Resolution introduced by Government supporter and the Government assured the House of acceptability of recommendation. An amendment to the Act which eliminates the necessity of foreign-born women married to British subjects obtaining voting certificates was passed.

19. **Re-Valuation of Soldiers' Land and Equipment**—This resolution was referred to the Pensions Committee. Did not think that the re-valuation was advisable, but have recommended several ways to the Government of relieving the burden of returned soldiers on the land.

19a. **Free Freight**—This is a Provincial matter.

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The History of Agriculture

By Ernest A. Hewes, B.S.A.

CHAPTER V.

Early English Agriculture.

Scant apology need be offered for directing the interest of the readers of this magazine toward the story of agriculture in England. Just as truly as the law givers and the law interpreters of this continent trace the development of their profession in this country from that of the old land, just as logically may Canadian farmers interest themselves in the evolution of agricultural thought and practice from the days when agriculture was in its most primitive state in the mother country.

If we specify England it is with the certainty that our friends of Scotch, Welsh, and even Irish descent, will not take offence, because it is manifestly easier to deal with one set of conditions and because more or less, English history, as such, has been taught in our public and high schools, and in submitting the story of the agriculture of that country we are at least entering upon territory that is, we hope, fairly familiar.

Not in School Histories.

Oh, no! You will not find much, if anything about the history of the rural peoples in our school histories. What can you expect when there are so many dates, battles, treaties, acts, executions, divorces, and "killing of people for religion's sake"? There cannot possibly be room to deal with a question so common-place as the development of the rural people of England. The implied criticism in the foregoing sentence is meant seriously, the writer feeling that, as one well-known writer claims, the nation dwells in the cottage, and unless the light of the constitution can shine there we may depend upon it the nation can never truly be great or happy. This, then, is the justification for glancing, in what must be a very superficial way, at the progress of agriculture in England.

For the most part it is easy to get records, stacks of them, in regard to comparatively early English agriculture, and our legal documents, manorial acts, doomsday records tell us, sometimes in minute detail, of what land was held, in what way, by whom, together with costs and revenues. These are so statistical in their nature that the normal man would find them very dry reading indeed, but from them we can get accurate information as to how the people lived and progressed. On the other hand if one wishes to delve into the earliest life of the people, he is pretty well forced to read the signs still left upon the face of the ground. Terraces along hillsides still indicate the sites of the earliest settlements.

Primitive Husbandry

It may well be that there was an agriculture of a sort even before the tillage which produced the land marks. It is the generally accepted story of most people that in the primitive stages of agriculture the farming consisted of the tillage of a new tract of land each year, the flocks and herds living on the wild grass and the simple crops grown on freshly broken land every season. This period in English agriculture has been called the

> Chapter Four of "The History of Agriculture" was published in the June 15th issue of "The U.F.A."

time of Wild Field-grass Husbandry, a term surely sufficiently descriptive.

The next development in agriculture would be the separation of arable from pasture land when some tribe or sept would get tired of honoring moving day, and would decide to cultivate the land cropped the previous year. This is probably the type of cultivation that has left the land marks just mentioned. This stage in the development also would mean the beginning of joint occupation and tillage of land with probably no idea of rotation, and from this scheme of things possibly may have developed the system which governed English agriculture for so many centuries, that known as the manorial system.

Origin of Manorial System.

There is much dispute as to the origin of the manorial system. One group of historians claims that the tract of land involved in each manor was originally conquered by some powerful chief and by him allotted, according to grade, among his followers and adherents. This would be, as it were, a sort of modified type of the feudal system introduced by the Normans into England and perhaps the exponents of this idea have found less difficulty in building up evidence as to its validity. The other school of historians looks upon the manorial system as a gradual development from the Wild Field-grass Husbandry evolving through a process of joint occupation and tillage, and that the different social grades to be found in the manor from the lord of the manor downward, were simply the natural consequence of the rise of the fittest or strongest; that the lord of the manor, by personal ability, was in time able to establish his line in hereditary chieftainship.

There can be no benefit in present-day argument as to the origin, but we must approach with interest the story of the system that governed all agriculture for so many years in England, that was influential in its decadence, and that has left its mark even to the present day in parts of Old England.

A Picture of Early Rural England.

Let us ask of the reader that he exercise his imagination and try to picture England as it was in the early days of the manorial system. Broadly speaking the land was covered with forest, broken by natural open spaces, and at intervals by pieces of occupied land known as manors. These manors were widely separated and communication among them was maintained either by waterways, many of which have now disappeared, or by alleged roads, the conditions of which remained so bad, down through the centuries, that the prayers of the people were invoked every Sabbath for the traveller as well as for the sick. The group system as represented in these manors was based upon collective responsibility and was no doubt the direct result of what one writer has described as "the weakness of law and the infancy of agriculture." In the days when "might was right" it was absolutely necessary that groups of people should draw together for mutual aid and protection.

In other words, the manorial system in the early days was the only one suitable to the times and conditions. After travelling by one of the streams mentioned or by one of the so-called roads, as one approached a manor he noticed first of all the three ever-conspicuous buildings, the church, the manor house, and the mill. Coming nearer he found a village, generally made up of one straggling street, along which were the cottages of those who dwelt in subjection to the lord of the manor.

The manor house, removed to some distance from this village, was made up of a main building and out buildings and garden, surrounded by a wall, the house being built of timber, clay or stone. "The cottages, the homes of the peasantry, were clay-walled, open-roofed, earth-floored, chimneyless sheds, covered with straw or reeds or heather, and consisting of a single room. Here, divided by a hurdle or wattle partition, lived, not only the human inhabitants, but their cows, pigs, and poultry. Close by were the tofts and crofts of the open-field farmers, each with its miniature hayrick and straw-stack; and the cottages and curtilages of the cottagers, 'fenced all about with stikkes.' Here were the scanty gardens in which grew the vegetables, few but essential to the health of a population which lived almost entirely on salted meat and fish—often half-cured and half-putrid. These homesteads were in early times the only property held by members of the township in exclusive separate occupation. They were also at first the only permanent enclosures on the commonable land." Surrounding all these buildings lay the land, tilled or untilled, free and unfree, pasture and untilled waste, whereon was conducted the agriculture of that day and date.

Upward Struggle from Serfdom

Many of the readers of the U.F.A. magazine will be familiar with one or both of the following books: Scott's "Ivanhoe" and Conan Doyle's "The White Company." Evidently these writers had made themselves familiar with the lives and customs of the people of the respective periods in which the plot of each story is laid. In anticipation of the story to be given in the next issue, of the farming methods of the early English under the manorial system, it might be well where possible to read up the description given by Scott of the forests of old England, and incidentally note what he has to say about the swine raising of that day. In Conan Doyle's book a most striking sidelight is thrown upon the class distinction of those days, and the evidence of a restlessness which perhaps marked the beginning of the slow rise of the people of rural England. He tells about the bonded workman bitterly exclaiming: "The castle has thrown its shadow upon the cottage all too long." We cannot but consider with interest the struggles of a people from what was practically a condition of serfdom up

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The Provincial Secretary's Page

Information From Central Office For Officers and Members.

OFFICIAL CIRCULAR No. 7.

Locals in Arrears.

The following is addressed to Locals which have not remitted dues to Central Office yet this year:—

With half the year gone, you will agree that Central Office is right in being concerned as to the standing of your Local. If your Local is active and membership fees have been collected for 1922, but not yet remitted, we trust that as secretary, you will see that Central Office portion of the membership fees is forwarded without delay.

The Constitution of our Association provides in Section 12, Paragraph 4, "A Local six months in arrears for dues to the Association shall stand suspended without action of the Central Office, and the name of the Local shall be published in the Official Organ of the Association."

Central Office does not desire to take any action to embarrass your Local, but in referring to this provision of the Constitution wishes to point out that it is important that all Locals keep in close touch with Central Office, and one of the important things in this connection is to see that Central Office dues are remitted as soon as possible each year. Central Office revenue is being curtailed, and the work of Central Office handicapped by non-remittance of dues.

If your Local is not actively functioning this year, will you please write and tell us what the trouble is, and perhaps we can arrange for the Director or some one else from Central to visit you.

Central Office fully realizes the difficulty in view of the depressed agricultural conditions in collecting membership fees.

Strive to Maintain Local.

Whatever you do strive to maintain your Local. If you cannot raise the full $2.00 per member for Central Office at the present time, remit what you can. Some Locals in the drought area are allowing their members to pay up this year by instalments. In order that Central Office may function as is intended, it is necessary that financial support to Central Office be maintained, but believing sincerely in the great help that your Local can be to the people of your district, we would strongly recommend that whatever you do, you keep your Local in existence, even if you can not, at the present time, pay your dues to Central.

We are doing all we can at Central to meet the financial problem, and we have faith that things will come out all right.

Whatever you do, do not abandon your organization. Most parts of the Province have recently received good rains, which should make people feel more optimistic for the future, as they will have some crop in sight.

Whether you have dues to remit or not at this time, do not hesitate to write us and let us know how you are getting along.

R. MIGGINBOTHAM,
Provincial Secretary.

KEEP DIRECTOR POSTED.

Locals which follow the practice of meeting on a regular day or days each month, are requested to notify the Director for their Constituency of the meeting date. If all Locals would do this, it would frequently be possible for the Director to drop in at a meeting when out on organization work without pre-arrangement.

> Matters formerly dealt with by circular from Central Office to Local Secretaries are now discussed in this department.

BULLETIN No. 10 A.

The Value of the Picnic.

The picnic is essentially a community institution, and hence appeals to all members of U.F.A. Locals. It is a most practical and effective "getting together" and should promote good fellowship and neighborly feeling. There can be no doubt that a U.F.A. picnic may be made a valuable factor in promoting the social ends held in view by the Association.

The value of the picnic for extension or propaganda purposes is more problematical. The attempt is frequently made to make it an occasion for a meeting, with addresses on U.F.A. work. These attempts have not been uniformly successful and local associations should learn some lessons from experience. More than one speaker has reported to the Central Office cordially denouncing the picnic as a speaking occasion. One speaker reports motoring many miles to attend a picnic and being given no opportunity at all to speak. The officers were too busy in the stand or with the sports to arrange about a program. In other cases a meeting was arranged and held, and amid the snorting of motor cars, the rattling of dishes, the skirl of bagpipes or the clash of a brass band, the chatting of youths and maidens, and the wild shouts of baseball fans, one or two speakers attempted to address the populace without results, excepting to the patience of the aforementioned speakers and the handful of listeners.

Of course, it is gladly admitted that some picnics are held each season where ideal speaking conditions are secured and good meetings held, especially when the meeting was held in a tent or hall.

Should Guarantee Period.

The conclusion is forced upon us that it is useless to attempt speaking at a picnic unless those in charge are prepared to guarantee a period when no sports shall be going on, when the "stand" shall cease operations, and where seating of some kind is provided for a majority of the audience at least one hour for speaking should be allowed. The chief necessity seems to be a little common sense and consideration on both sides.

It is the duty of the Central Office to get the best possible results from the funds placed at its disposal by the Locals and it is not in the interests of our organization that speakers should be sent out at a considerable expenditure of time and money unless good use is going to be made of them. One Local secretary, whose Local had requested a speaker from Central and then omitted to make arrangements so that he could speak, frankly admitted that they had asked for the speaker because they thought his name would help to advertise the picnic. That kind of advertising is too expensive.

It may be said for the speakers, that in future it is going to be a little harder than ever to get speakers to go to picnics unless definite assurance is furnished as to some such arrangements as above indicated being made.

RIVER BOW CONVENTION.

About fifty delegates, representing twelve Locals, together with a large number of visitors, attended the annual convention of the River Bow U.F.A. District Association, held in Enchant. The officers of the Association, R. L. King, president, Mrs. Barbara Hill, vice-president, and Rev. F. Forster, secretary-treasurer, were all re-elected for another year.

It was decided to let the matter of organizing a rye pool stand until it was ascertained what would result from the wheat pool, which was then being discussed by Parliament. A scheme of government insurance against crop failures put forward by Badger Lake Local received considerable attention, but the convention decided that it was impracticable at present.

L. Peterson, M.L.A., asked whether it would be possible for the Government to guarantee a lower rate of interest on loans, stated that it was perhaps impossible at present, as even the Government had to pay a high rate of interest.

Ask Uniform Lease.

The Government was asked to prepare a uniform lease for use of mortgage companies in exercising the landlord privileges, so as to protect the interests of the farmers. The Relief Act was discussed at some length, and explanations were made of the various provisions.

A committee was appointed to interview Mr. Rice-Jones, of the United Grain Growers, Ltd., regarding complaints as to the delivery of oats for seed and feed.

At the evening session addresses were given by Mrs. L. C. McKinney, of Claresholm, L. Peterson, M.L.A., and A. E. Ostewell, of the University of Alberta.

CONDITIONS IN NOVA SCOTIA

The conditions which are adversely affecting agriculture throughout the Dominion appear to be bearing heavily upon the farmers in Nova Scotia, and are making it difficult for the farmers' organization there, the U. F. N. S., to continue operations. So few clubs had paid up dues that it was felt advisable to postpone the annual convention; their central office has been given up, and the secretary is carrying on the work without assistance. In a circular to members he points out that farmers in Nova Scotia are using the same farming methods that they did fifty years ago, when conditions were very different, and suggests as a remedy specialization in certain lines, such as dairying, bacon production or beef-raising. Continued and increased effort along the lines of co-operative buying and marketing is also urged as a means of bettering farming conditions.

ARRANGING RED DEER MEETINGS.

A series of meetings in the eastern part of the Red Deer constituency is being arranged for the latter part of August. It is hoped that many of the meetings will take the form of rallies in which several Locals will participate. They will be addressed by Alfred Speakman, M.P. for Red Deer, and R. O. German, Director.

Causes of Depression in Agriculture and Industry

A SYMPOSIUM OF OPINIONS

Speaking before the Calgary Board of Trade on July 21st, Captain J. T. Shaw, M.C., M.P. for West Calgary, urged the necessity for the most thorough investigation by business men into the relation between the credit system and problems of production and consumption. He described the present system as neither efficient nor effective. "The people of Canada," he said, "have come to realize that credit is community created, and consequently it should be so controlled." He regretted that the resolution by William Irvine, M.P. for East Calgary, calling for an inquiry into the relation of credit to the industrial problem had not been adopted and a committee appointed at Ottawa.

PART ELEVEN.

Seek Inquiry Into Fundamentals.

In Great Britain, where the movement in favor of a public inquiry by a representative committee into the whole problem of finance and credit, is gaining in momentum, resolutions in the following form have been passed at public meetings called to consider this question: "In view of the present deplorable state of the nation's economic life, in which its resources are largely lying idle and deteriorating while its needs are increasing and urgent, this meeting calls upon the Government to institute immediately a full and public inquiry into the relations between Finance and the processes of production and consumption."

The resolution is somewhat similar in form to the resolution presented in the Canadian House of Commons during the recent session. Alberta members of the House expressed regret that this resolution had not been adopted, and an inquiry instituted.

They are seeking an inquiry by a committee of several members not committed in advance against the consideration of fundamental reforms in the credit system, and the inquiring body, they believe, should concern itself not solely with incidental injustices under present banking legislation, but should investigate the fundamental principles of credit. Alberta members themselves discussed these principles on several occasions during the Parliamentary session.

"Economy" No Solution.

"Economy," if by this term be meant a general curtailment of expenditure upon necessary services and goods, will not contribute to a solution of the present financial difficulties, in the opinion of the supporters of financial reforms who have been quoted in this series of articles. The curtailment of expenditure which has been forced upon the public by deflation has served to aggravate the business depression, which springs from the lack of purchasing power among the great body of the people, whether these be engaged in farming or in urban industry. Gradually, as H. E. Spencer, M.P., showed in a recent article in this paper, the public is realizing that the slogans "Produce More" and "Consume Less" are mutually contradictory. The essence of the present problem, it is contended, is that of providing purchasing power for the goods produced.

"If all industries were run for six months to their maximum capacity with maximum economy," said Hilderic Cousins, a British economist, in a recent book dealing with the financial situation, "not merely would profits sink to zero, but owing to the operations of the financial system, they would all stop because no one could buy what they had produced. The practice of super-production in 1919 and 1920 is partly responsible for the present depression."

The writer did not suggest, however, that any genuine "overproduction" had taken place. There was overproduction in the sense that the public lacked the buying power necessary to acquire goods which they needed. Not a curtailment of consumption, but an increase in purchasing power, was required to prevent a deadlock in industry.

Under the heading "What Is Economy?" the United Farmers' Guide of Gardenville, Quebec, said in a recent issue: "Practically every speaker upon the budget and upon the estimates has dwelt upon the necessity for economy in public expenditure, and many have gone farther afield and in most vehement terms have called for economy in private expenditure as well. To what end? That there may be in the hands of individuals more money with which to pay taxes and, in public finance, that more money may be diverted from current expenditure to payment upon the debt. Such motives on the surface appear most commendable, but will they stand investigation?

The Inevitable Result.

"If every individual 'economizes' in the sense employed by most public speakers, what must be the inevitable result? There must be a certain and sure curtailment of buying. During the past two years Canada and the world generally have passed through this condition. The result has been a curtailment of production, and a lowering of the standard of living. Business and industry of every kind have lagged behind, largely through absence of demand for goods.

"To correct this mental basis for bad business, let us ask ourselves seriously, are the natural resources of Canada any less? Are the producers of Canada any fewer in numbers or any less efficient than during the war period? The answer to these queries is a decided negative. Why, then, should we deceive ourselves with the idea that Canada could during the war not only produce millions of dollars' worth of goods to be destroyed and at the same time ample necessities and luxuries to maintain a standard of living never before reached in the country, but that now, when practically nothing is being produced with destruction as its object, we cannot produce goods ample for our needs and apply the surplus which a few years ago was produced to be destroyed, to the payment of our debts? It can be done.

"Economy" Which Is Waste.

"A little common sense based upon faith is all that is necessary. In this contention there is no thought that money or money's worth should be wasted either in useless private or public expenditure. This would be merely repeating the destruction of the war period. But 'economy' in necessary expenditures is waste."

Somewhat similar views were expressed in a recent issue of the Christian Science Monitor of Boston, a daily newspaper which is only incidentally devoted to the particular religious creed whose name it bears, and is recognized as a newspaper of highest standing.

Shop-Worn Platitudes.

"At a time when the manufacturers and merchants are seeking a remedy for the nation-wide conditions resulting from decreased consumption of goods," says the Monitor, "the representatives of certain banking and financial interests have been declaiming the shop-worn platitudes to the effect that greater economy in personal expenditure is what is most needed in order to restore prosperity. Coming from sources that have securities of various kinds to market, this advice might well be ignored were it not that its constant iteration will doubtless have the effect of prompting a lessened buying, and consequently of decreasing business. The thrift campaign is half truth. Put forward as a means of overcoming adverse conditions admittedly due to under-consumption it is misleading and mischievous."

To Alberta farmers, who have been compelled to practise a harmful 'economy' through sheer lack of purchasing power, these views will no doubt carry a special significance. Their significance for business men is not less important, as the depression in Western Canada is due primarily to the fact that the farmers lack the power to purchase the goods they need.

No Real Overproduction.

Supporters of the Douglas proposals, and others who are seeking to bring about a public inquiry into the bearing of finance and credit upon the present depression, point out that while there has been a so-called overproduction of goods, real overproduction cannot occur until the whole body of the public is supplied with the goods they need, and that this condition has never been reached. The problem is one of under-consumption and, it is contended, this condition can only be overcome by means of certain important adjustments of the credit system itself.

In the Oxford Economics Society

Proposals for credit reform have aroused widespread interest in the British and Australian universities. The president of the Economics Society of the University of Oxford, which since the war has abandoned many conservative traditions and is becoming increasingly progressive, informed "The U.F.A." during a recent visit to Calgary, that the Douglas proposals have received much attention in the society, and that the views of Major Douglas now command many adherents.

In the greater part of the press, both in Great Britain and in North America, however, and in some universities, a boycott of discussion is apparent.

(To be continued)

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The U.F.W.A. and Juniors

A WIDE RANGE OF INTERESTS

"Can you tell me where I can get material for a paper on co-operation between home and school?"

"I have been asked to lead the discussion on the effect of our present method of taxation on the home; will you please send me some material?"

"The Local has asked me to prepare a paper on 'Labor Saving Devices'; will you give me an outline to follow in writing the paper?"

"Our Local is having a debate on the subject 'Resolved that Capital Punishment Should Be Abolished.' Could you give me some material on the subject?"

These are some of the requests which farm women send to the office of the organization. They reveal the variety of interests which occupy the attention of the organized farm women.

The wide range of subjects indicated in these inquiries is remarkable when we consider that organizations among farm women are very recent. It is doubtful if more than ten per cent. of the members of the U. F. W. A. ever belonged to any organization other than a charity or church organization. Yet the action taken by the U. F. W. A. Convention is viewed with more interest than that of any other women's organization. To find the reason for this advance in organized effort it is necessary to seek further than the independent, self - supporting, self-governing nature of the organization, further than the advantage of being a part of a Dominion-wide organized farmer movement, further than the fact that it is based on sound principles.

Result of Environment.

These things have all had a tremendous influence on the work of the organization. But the interest the farm woman takes in public questions is a result of her environment, her life, herself. The city man's wages are a fixed quantity. Month by month he knows in advance what his pay envelope will contain; while the farmer does not know on the very hour he leaves home to market his drove of cattle, or his pigs, or his load of grain, what the returns for his labor will be. His wife soon comes to realize that the economic condition of the country has a very vital connection with the comforts of her home.

In the city the number of children to be educated in each district is so large that the responsibility of individuals, unless appointed to some office in connection with the school, is slight; while in the country even the initial step of organizing a school district rests with the handful of residents in that district. Thus the farmer's wife is brought in personal touch with the educational system of the Province.

The city man and woman have to do only with finished products, or with one small part of the process involved in making a finished product. The farmer, on the other hand, produces the foundation material of nearly every industry. It would seem that he might be in a position at least to place his occupation on a solid financial foundation.

Interest in Fundamentals.

All these factors in the lives of rural people tend to make the farm woman look below the surface of every question, get down to fundamentals, seek out the elusive "Why?"

It is evident that farm women have gifts of an exceptional nature which they may bring to their country through the medium of their organization. The fact that they are inexperienced in club work is probably an advantage rather than a drawback. There is, however, one occasion when the farm woman feels really handicapped by her lack of experience in club work, and that is when she is asked to prepare an address, paper, or debate. In the next issue of "The U.F.A." we hope to give some practical suggestions on the preparation of material for the Local's program.

J. B. KIDD,
Provincial Secretary U. F. W. A.

STUDY THE ANNUAL REPORT.

Suggestions have already been made on the pages of this paper regarding the use of the Annual Report, which is now in the hands of all Local secretaries. This is the official record of the work your organization accomplishes at its annual business session. Get acquainted through it with the names of your Provincial officers. Read the reports of their work. Study the record of research work by the Educational, Legislative, Marketing, Health and Social Service Committees. The year book alone will furnish excellent program material and will direct your thoughts along constructive channels. This constructive study of the Locals is the organization's source of energy.

J.B.K.

OUR U.F.A. PAPER.

Several requests have come in lately from our Junior Clubs for copies of "The U.F.A." It is, however, hard to ascertain just how many of our Junior Locals would really appreciate receiving same.

It is already understood that Junior members paying the $3.00 fee are entitled to receive the organization newspaper. Junior members of Senior Locals are also entitled to receive the paper.

In order that you may get your paper, if you are entitled to receive it, it is necessary for your secretary to send in your name and address, immediately, to Central Office.

We feel the receiving of one paper in each family would meet your needs, so are asking secretaries to kindly omit the names of those whose parents are already receiving copies.

In cases where Junior members paying the smaller fees would be especially interested, we are offering to send copies to the older members of these clubs—preferably the secretary or president, so that the young people may study the paper at their Junior meetings.

EVA M. PEEL,
Secretary Junior Branch.

BARRIE'S "CALL TO YOUTH."

"Courage is the thing. All goes if courage goes. What says our own Samuel Johnson of courage. 'Unless a man have that virtue, he has no security for preserving any other.' Be not merely courageous, but be light-hearted and also gay. . . . . Courage, my children, and 'greet the unless with a cheer.' "—Sir James Barrie's "Call to Youth," an address to the students of St. Andrew's University, Scotland.

HOW THE U.F.A. RESOLUTIONS WERE DEALT WITH AT OTTAWA.

(Continued from page 4)

20. **Equalization of Freight Rates**—The whole matter was gone into very thoroughly by Parliamentary Committee. (See No. 26.)

21. **Natural Resources**—The responsibility of this taken over by the Provincial Government. Alberta members at all times ready to support local Government in this matter.

22. **Pensions**—This matter was very thoroughly gone into by the Special Committee on same. (The matter is dealt with fully in the Parliamentary Committee's report.) The House was generally very sympathetic with soldiers' difficulties.

22a. **Unemployment**—This subject has been voiced very strongly by Progressive and Labor members. The Government has continually hedged from recognizing responsibility. They have tried to throw the onus of responsibility of same on to the Provinces and municipalities. Both the Liberal and Conservative parties appear to shut their eyes to the real need of finding out the fundamental cause of unemployment.

22b. **Re-establishment, Soldier Settlers**—These were taken up by the Special Committee.

23. **Thanksgiving Day**—Recommendation that this day be observed on Armistice Day, November 11th. Considered by Soldier Settlement Board, but no action taken.

24. **Progressives in Parliament**—"That they will not affiliate permanently with any other party." The Alberta Group consider their actions during the present session a decisive answer to this request along the lines expressed.

24. **Race-Track Gambling**—Against use of Pari-mutuels. A resolution was placed on the order paper with respect to this matter, but squeezed out when private members' day was cancelled.

25. **Homestead Rights in Dry Belt**—Minister was quite willing to concur with the wishes of the resolution asking that new homesteads be secured, but stated that Natural Resources question has first to be settled. Minister stated that consent of Provincial Government would be essential before any second homestead could be acquired by settlers from the dry area.

26. **Freight Rates**—This was governed largely by the fate of the Crow's Nest Pass agreement coming into operation on July 6th. When first brought down the Government refused to state their opinion and brought in a resolution advocating that it be turned over to a Special Committee. This was opposed by the Progressives, but carried. Some 22 meetings were held and many witnesses heard. The railways fought for cancellation of the Crow's Nest Pass agreement. Progressives eventually compromised to the extent of demanding that the Crow's Nest Pass rates come into operation with regard to grain and flour, and reductions in other commodities be left to the Railway Commission. On this decision they were prepared to put up a determined fight and force the Government to bring in the closure if they wanted to refuse same. The Government, recognizing the united front of so large a number of members, brought in a resolution favoring this

(Continued on page 12)

Employment Service of Canada

GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

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The Constituency Conventions

Reports from the U.F.A. Constituency Associations.

Secretaries of all Federal and Provincial Constituency Associations are invited to submit short reports of their Annual Conventions for publication in "The U.F.A." In this issue the reports of the Battle River Federal Convention and a number of Provincial Conventions are given. The Annual Convention of the Victoria Federal Constituency Association has been held, but the report is not yet available.

BATTLE RIVER CONVENTION.

The annual convention of the Battle River U.F.A. and U.F.W.A. Political Association was held in Wainwright, on July 18th and 19th, the sessions occupying two days. There were in attendance 74 delegates, representing 49 Locals in all parts of the constituency.

The speakers included Mrs. Sears, President of the U.F.W.A., D. Brockie, Director, and Messrs. Johnson and Ennenauer, members of the Alberta Legislature for the constituencies of Coronation and Alexandra.

The report of H. E. Spencer, M.P. for Battle River, covered most of the business of the last session of the Federal House. Mr. Spencer spoke on both days of the convention, and at the conclusion of his report the delegates passed a vote of thanks which assured Mr. Spencer that he had carried out the wishes of the people responsible for his election.

Among the important resolutions passed was one asking that the board take the necessary steps to withdraw from the central incorporation and incorporate separately. A resolution to reduce the annual fee to fifty cents was lost.

The officers for the ensuing year are: President, Kenneth Watson; Vice-President, Mrs. Elmer Clay; Directors, Z. Gregoire, W. E. Glasier, A. F. Aitken, J. G. Clark, Norman Tucker and Mr. Peterson.

VERMILION CONVENTION.

The annual convention of the Vermilion U.F.A. Provincial Constituency Association was held in Vermilion and was attended by about one hundred delegates. The discussions were thrown open to all U.F.A. and U.F.W.A. members, whether members of the association or not, but only delegates voted.

After the reports of the officers had been received, several constitutional amendments were considered. A resolution was submitted to make any member of the U.F.A., whether he had paid dues to the Provincial Constituency Association or not, eligible as a delegate to the Convention. Finally it was decided to leave the basis of representation as at present, but to reduce the membership fee to the Provincial Constituency Association to twenty-five cents per annum. Another amendment eliminated the payment of directors for time spent on business of the association. The mileage allowance was to be the same as heretofore.

A resolution was introduced with regard to the establishment of a Provincial bank, and censuring the Government for the appointment merely of a commissioner to make inquiry. Hon. R. G. Reid, the sitting member for the constituency, stated that it was necessary to get all available information before embarking upon such an undertaking. Also, in view of the fact that the Bank Act would come before the Federal Parliament for revision during the next session, it had been thought that the Provincial Government should be in a position to submit sworn testimonies covering any complaint it was desired to make. The resolution was lost.

R. B. Hanning was elected president, and H. N. Stearns and Mrs. Walker, vice-presidents.

A short address was heard from P. Ennenauer, M.L.A., emphasizing the need for the study of proposed legislation by the Association and by Locals. Hon. R. G. Reid gave an exhaustive report of the work of the Government since coming into power, and H. E. Spencer, M.P., gave an account of the work of the Progressive members in the Federal House. Votes of thanks were passed to the speakers.

NANTON ANNUAL CONVENTION.

Fifty-two delegates attended the annual convention of the Nanton U.F.A. Provincial Constituency Association in Stavely recently. The convention was open to the public, and a large number took advantage of the opportunity to listen to the discussions.

The treasurer's report showed a balance of $121 in hand. A resolution was passed making a ten cent levy per member per annum to carry on the business of the Association. Another resolution changed the basis of representation at conventions to one delegate for every five members.

Addresses were given by D. M. Galbraith, M.L.A., and Wm. Irvine, M.P. Mr. Galbraith spoke on the work of the Provincial Legislature, and Mr. Irvine emphasized the necessity of maintaining the group system of organization.

W. D. Ransom was elected president of the Association for the coming year, and the vice-presidents are as follows: Mrs. A. E. Rodgers, Wm. Bowie, and Lawrence Kindt.

PEMBINA CONSTITUENCY CONVENTION.

A Convention of the Pembina U.F.A. Provincial Constituency Association was held in Westlock recently. There were 62 delegates present and a large number of visitors. Addresses were given by A. R. Brown, Director, Geo. McLachlan, M.L.A. for West Edmonton South, and H. Critchlow, president of the Association, and a lengthy address by Mr. H. W. Wood, which was well received.

The following resolutions were adopted by the convention:

1. Resolved that the next Annual Convention appoint a special committee to fully investigate the question of light railways as feeders to trunk lines, said committee to report to the 1928 Annual Convention.

2. A resolution calling for no demurrage charge on way freight and expressing in stations after 48 hours owing to the poor mail service in many rural parts.

3. A resolution endorsing the re-establishment of the Canada Wheat Board.

4. Resolved that the Government of the Province of Alberta investigate and decide upon the location of the proposed Athabasca Valley R.R., taking into consideration the interests of the settlers residing between the B.D. & B.C. Railways and Fort Assiniboine.

5. Be it resolved that the U.F.A. in districts where there is no organized municipality be empowered to appoint and recall their own road foremen.

6. A resolution calling for the imposition of a Provincial-wide poll tax on persons over twenty-one years not otherwise taxed, proceeds to be applied on roads.

The convention held was a most enthusiastic one throughout and it is not likely that there will be any falling off in membership in the Pembina Constituency this year.

The British House of Commons has passed by 247 votes to 171 a resolution favoring the removal of the embargo against Canadian store cattle, and a bill to effect its removal will be introduced in the fall, according to press despatches from London.

Place Orders for Your Harvest Labor Early

Government Employment Service States Imported Harvesters Will Be Required.

"It now appears to be highly probable that the importation of harvest labor from other Provinces will be necessary," stated J. W. Mitchell, manager of the Alberta Government Employment Bureau, in an interview with "The U.F.A." a few days ago.

"In order that the Employment Service may be in possession of accurate and up-to-date information as to what the requirements will be, the officials of the Service invite the hearty co-operation of every farmer as to the number of men he will require for harvest work.

"The Employment Service appreciates the somewhat limited co-operation of the past, but at the same time feels that there are other farmers in the Province who would only be doing themselves justice, and placing the service in a position where it could be of greater assistance, if they would take the service into their confidence, and use it to their own good.

"Arrangements have been made with the transportation companies to transport men to Calgary and Edmonton, from which point they will be assigned to farmers whose orders are on record in our offices.

"The first parties are expected to arrive in Calgary and Edmonton about the 14th of August, and in order that there may be no delay in the dispatching of these men to work, orders should be on record in our offices in advance of this date."

MANITOBA FARMERS TO FORM GOVERNMENT.

In the Manitoba Provincial elections held on July 19, the United Farmers of Manitoba elected 24 members, the urban Progressives 1, the Independents 3, the Liberals 2, the Conservatives 6, Labor 2, while three elections are deferred. The total number of seats in the Legislative Assembly is 55. Premier Norris was re-elected, but three of his colleagues in the Liberal cabinet were defeated. At a conference of U.F.M. members held in Winnipeg on July 21st, John Bracken, principal of the Manitoba Agricultural College, was selected as leader, and will succeed Mr. Norris as Premier. He will select the names of members whom he wishes to include in the Cabinet in a further conference. Mr. Bracken is 39 years of age. He is a native of Ontario and a graduate of the Guelph Agricultural College.

In the city of Winnipeg, where the system of proportional representation is in vogue, F. J. Dixon, the leader of the Labor group, headed the polls with 7,304 first choices, or more than double the vote of his nearest competitor. Only one of the eight candidates nominated by the urban Progressives in Winnipeg was elected.

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HOW THE U.F.A. RESOLUTIONS WERE DEALT WITH AT OTTAWA

(Continued from page 9)

recommendations and same was accepted by the Govt.

27. Reform of the Senate— A resolution was placed on the order paper by one of the Alberta members in favor of bringing up for discussion, but was withdrawn owing to the pressure of business.

28. Asiatic Immigration— A long debate took place on this matter on a which many members of all parties emphatically favored exclusion. Government was anxious not to endanger international relations with the Oriental nations and recommended an amendment by changing the word "total exclusion" to "effective exclusion." With the change the resolution passed the House by a large majority.

29. Grazing Leases. The Minister of Interior informed the Alberta delegation that the Federal government would not at the time of Sunday's conference be able to make arrangements for the Provincial Governments right to use the lands from the Federal and Provincial governments in turn were to lease. A copy of the new grazing regulations was sent to the Central Office of Calgary and also to the Minister of Agriculture, Alberta. The Dominion Minister of Interior was also asked with regard to same.

30. Wm. Fraser Irrigation Project. The matter was taken up with discussion and suggestions were given as regard to the work.

31. Proposed Restrictions on Bird Sanctuaries. Resolution asked for an amendment regarding inspection and the protection of fencing of parts of Alberta to enable stock to graze.

32. Government Hay Contracts— Resolution was passed in sympathy to the demand that farmers should be given the first chance of leasing government lands and obtaining hay if possible. That the sales should not be confined to the Calgary board.

33. The Elections Act. Making it necessary for the candidates to have name of party they represented of the ballot paper.

This matter was taken up in the Senate and rejected but there being a distinct difference of opinion on the subject it was taken up again.

34. False Representation at Polls Act governing it was taken up in and passed the Commons but was blocked in the Senate. The Minister of Justice was approached by the Alberta members with regard to other amendments being taken and he promised to gather the results in 1928.

OUR HISTORY OF AGRICULTURE

(Continued from page 5)

through the agro to the metal pot of the farmer's tools. In the next issue there will be given a descriptive of agricultural practices of bygone days which prove of more than a passing interest as foundational to our present-day agriculture.

Authorization has been given for the organization of the Co-operative Society of Carleton.

LEGISLATION BY PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLIES MAKES WHEAT BOARD POSSIBLE.

(Continued from page 11)

the producer by way of advance or cash payment, such sum or sums as may be directed by the board;

Board Names Terms.

(h) to order any person holding wheat stored in any elevator or warehouse or elsewhere in Alberta, to sell and dispose of the same to the board or any licensee of the board or any purchaser named by the board, on such terms as the board may direct, and any such order of the board shall pass to the purchaser the title to wheat mentioned in any such order;

(i) to enter into contracts or agreements of any kind and with any person, with respect to the purchase, sale, handling, storage, transportation and (or) insurance of wheat;

(j) to determine what constitutes delivery to or possession by the board.

Additional Powers.

5. The lieutenant-governor-in-council may from time to time confer upon the board such additional powers as may be deemed advisable to enable it to carry out the purposes for which it has been established.

6. The board may, with the approval of the lieutenant-governor-in-council, make such regulations as it deems necessary for the purpose of fully and effectively carrying out the objects and provisions of this act; and may create offenses and provide penalties in respect of violations of any provision of this act or of any order or regulation made by the board under its authority.

7. The lieutenant-governor-in-council may approve regulations made by the board under the authority of section 20 of The Canadian Wheat Board Act, 1922.

8. For wheat grown in Alberta the board may make payment, by way of advance or otherwise, by authorization to a chartered bank or to chartered banks, to pay under such conditions and on production of such vouchers as the board may by regulation provide, and the lieutenant-governor-in-council may, if he deem advisable, guarantee repayment of any monies so paid by a bank or banks with interest at a rate not exceeding six per cent. per annum.

When Powers End.

9. The powers conferred upon the board by this act, or any order in council made thereunder, shall not be exercised or exercisable after the fifteenth day of August, 1923, except for the purpose of sale, realization of assets, collections, payments, distribution of proceeds and generally for the winding up of the affairs and business of the board;

Provided, however, that in case the governor-in-council extends the operation of the Canadian Wheat Board Act, 1922, as provided by section 17 of the said act, the lieutenant-governor-in-council may continue the powers conferred upon the board by or under the authority of this act for one year from the date first mentioned in this section.

10. No action or other legal proceeding shall be brought or taken against the board or any member or officer or servant thereof in respect of anything done or omitted, or proposed to be done or omitted, in compliance or assumed compliance with any provision of this act or of any order-in-council or order or regulation of the board made or purporting to be made under its authority, without the leave of the attorney-general to bring such action or take such proceeding having been first obtained.

11. This act shall be construed as being intended to confer upon the board such powers and rights only as may be conferred by the legislature of Alberta.

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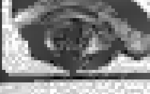

Hears Grievances Against the Banks

Government Commissioner Takes Evidence of U.F.A. and Examines Bank Officials at Calgary.

Detailed evidence on banking practices and upon the relations between the farmers and the banks in various parts of the Province, was given before Professor D. A. MacGibbon, Commissioner of the Alberta Government, at a session held in the City Hall, Calgary, on July 25th. Representatives of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, the Bank of Montreal, the Royal Bank and the Union Bank were among those examined. H. Higginbotham, Secretary of the U.F.A., gave evidence in behalf of the organization, and James Kellas, Secretary of the Alberta Retail Merchants' Association, was also a witness.

The Principal Complaints.

Mr. Higginbotham said he had been given to understand that the Commissioner did not intend to examine the general causes of deflation or the underlying principles of credit, but wished to hear specific complaints or suggestions with reference to the operation of the banks in Alberta. He stated that the main complaints received at the Central Office from farmers in regard to their relations with the banks dealt with the following:

1. Excessive rates of interest.
2. The practice of deducting interest on loans before the interest was earned.
3. A change of bank manager sometimes resulting in a farmer not getting the credit that he had been promised, and coupled with this the fact that the impression had got abroad that the banks had a definite policy of putting a new manager into a district in order to clean up loans.
4. In regard to banks forcing farmers to realize on live stock when the market was low, or before their stock was in marketable condition.
5. In regard to the banks refusing further credit where loans had already been given.

In this last class on investigation it was usually found that the farmer had exhausted his credit possibilities.

In regard to No. 4, Mr. Higginbotham said that for cattle raising purposes the farmer needed loans for a two years' period.

Another complaint frequently heard was that by charging more than 7 per cent. banks were not complying with the law. It was also complained that local managers had too little control.

To Submit Resolutions.

Mr. Higginbotham said he would submit copies of the U.F.A. Convention resolutions on banking to the Commissioner. Upon Professor MacGibbon asking whether the passing of these resolutions had been due to the complaints mentioned in the evidence, Mr. Higginbotham said that no doubt the existence of these grievances had had some effect, and called attention to the fact that the Commissioner did not intend to investigate the general causes of deflation and general principles, but only to discuss specific grievances. The Provincial Secretary said the farmers would like to feel assured that the banks were not hostile to the co-operative credit societies.

The Bankers Give Evidence.

James B. Corbett, Superintendent of Alberta branches of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, stated that in a period of two years the senior inspector visited every branch. Applications from the farmers were wanted as soon as possible after the old crop was harvested, and loans would be made by the end of December if applications were received in time. As a rule loans were limited to one season. They ran until the farmer had sold his crop. He did not know of a case in which a credit had been recalled.

Mr. Corbett defended the practice of charging interest on loans in advance, saying that it was no secret that this was generally done, the banks discounting the farmers' notes. It was a convenience to the banks and to the farmers. Western bankers in session at Edmonton more than a year ago had decided on this policy. The general rate of interest was 8 per cent. At Youngstown and in portions of the drought area 9 per cent. had been charged. The banks liked to have titles lodged with them when loans were made, in order that the farms could not be mortgaged without their being notified.

If 7 Per Cent. Clause Were Observed.

As to the question of interest, said the witness, it was well known that money was a commodity whose value fluctuated. He was sure that "no banker had had anything to do with the provision in the Bank Act that not more than 7 per cent. should be recoverable." This provision must have been inserted by "politicians who were trying to please everybody." If the 7 per cent. limit were observed the bank would be obliged to close many branches. If the bank note privilege were removed the result would be the same.

John N. Kennedy, representing the Bank of Montreal, stated that intelligent farmers had never objected to lodging their titles with the banks when loans were made. During the past four years the banks had been less successful in collecting their loans from farmers than the retail merchants had been in collecting their bills. If complaint were made that a new manager had declined to give a credit promised by his predecessor, the matter was referred to the old manager, and if the promise had been made it was carried out.

James Kellas, Secretary of the Alberta Retail Merchants' Association, said he could bear out what Mr. Higginbotham had said. It was decided that his evidence should be filed at the Edmonton sitting.

"The farmer who turns the proceeds of his crop into the banks has no difficulty in arranging new credits to take care of his obligations," stated John H. Menzies, representing the Royal Bank. Prof. MacGibbon asked whether witness considered that the bank occupied a superior position to other creditors, since the farmer desired to keep his credit good. Mr. Menzies agreed. He also expressed the opinion that the farmers had not had too much credit in the past.

During the examination of R. Chandler, who represented the Union Bank, Prof. MacGibbon stated that 10 per cent., compounded quarterly, had been charged by this bank in some cases at Foremost, according to evidence given. The Bank of Toronto had also been making these high charges.

"It is not a general rate, but no doubt there are some cases in which it is justified," said Mr. Chandler.

The Commissioner added that a case affecting the Union Bank had also been reported, in which a manager promised a credit, then declined to give it, then stated that it would be granted if the farmer gave a chattel mortgage, and finally refused to give any credit at all. He said he would ask for further evidence upon cases such as this and upon the matter of excessively high interest at Edmonton, from the banks concerned.

:o:

PARTICIPATION CERTIFICATES

There are yet nearly $220,000 worth of Wheat Board participation certificates outstanding, according to a return tabled in the House of Commons by Hon. J. A. Robb, Minister of Trade and Commerce, in answer to a question asked by C. C. Davies, Progressive member for North Battleford. A total of $500,000 was turned over to the Federal Government by the Canadian Wheat Board from surplus account, Mr. Davies was informed, and also $175,000 from participation certificates. The total value of outstanding participation certificates on May 22, 1922, was $209,326.

:o:

U.F.A. LEGAL DEPARTMENT

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Answer: Much depends on the terms of the written contract, and whether the company guaranteed delivery on that date. According to the usual rule, the party furnishing the machine should be notified, not later than the date of delivery, of the damage that will result from delay in delivery, so that he may understand what the damage is likely to be. It is too late after the damage has occurred to make the claim for the first time. Neither party probably anticipated the fall in the price of grain, and consequently that would not be the ground on which damages would be allowed. If you lost any threshing which you might have had, because of the delay, there would no doubt be some damages, which might be rather hard to prove, and would represent only the profits which would have been made on the lost business. If you decide to claim damages you can do so by counterclaiming in the suit which the vendors bring against you.

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